

Author Name: Terence Sutphin, MPH, MBA

University: Tulane University

Program of Study: Executive D.Sc. (Public Health)

Abstract Title: States' Efforts In Complying With The Model State Emergency Health Powers Act Relating To Isolation And Quarantine

Abstract: This poster reflects a legislative analysis of how the states are implementing Sections 604 and 605, Isolation and Quarantine, of the Model State Emergency Health Powers Act (MSEHPA). The states' efforts effect on individuals' liberties will be classified from least restrictive to most restrictive. A systematic Internet search was conducted of states' legislative acts, laws and pertinent articles concerning isolation and quarantine to determine whether states are revising their isolation and quarantine laws to conform with the MSEHPA. Key words used include: state's name - (i.e. Arkansas) - plus bioterrorism laws, isolation and quarantine. Since January 2003, thirty states plus the District of Columbia have submitted or passed new laws to comply with the MSEHPA. This legislative analysis indicates that the states have taken a wide range of actions to ensure states' compliance with the MSEHPA. These wide ranges of compliance actions have been arranged in a classification schedule ranking from least restrictive to most restrictive on individual liberties. The states were provided a tool in September 2003 for assessing their public health laws and meeting the requirements of the MSEHPA, called the Turning Point Model State Public Health Act (TPMSPHA). This legislative analysis presents new insight into how well states used this tool to protect individuals' liberties while still complying with the MSEHPA. Further studies should be conducted as states enact new public health laws concerning isolation and quarantine.